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Marchers protesting the Viet Nam war taking to Geary Street, a downtown residential area, in San Francisco, Saturday Nov. 15 in the direction of Golden Gate Park.

South Viet Nam

PLAF Step Up Attacks at Duc Lap-Bu Prang, Da Nang and Mekong Delta.

⊙ **4 Enemy Battalions and 3 Companies Decimated or Wiped Out, 14 Aircraft Downed at Duc Lap — Bu Prang in Six Days.**

⊙ 30 Bases and Positions Stormed : 770 Enemy Troops Put out of Action, 13 Aircraft Destroyed on the Ground on Da Nang Front in 4 Days.

⊙ *1,650 Enemy Casualties in Two Mekong Delta Provinces in a Week.*

AN IRREVERSIBLE MOVEMENT,

A Guarantee for the Future

THERE was a time when in the United States, a few isolated personalities raised their voices, amid general indifference, to protest against the "special war" started in Viet Nam by the Kennedy administration. Seven years have passed. That voice crying out in the wilderness has become a rallying banner for millions : now, looking back over the way they have travelled, the promoters of the movement could be proud when they listen to the thumping of hundreds of thousands of people marching up the big avenues of Washington or San Francisco.

It is clear that the Vietnamese people had not waited for that general opposition to the war in the United States to fight for their independence and freedom, and that the Vietnamese resistance will be carried through to final victory regardless of the evolution of the internal situation in America.

It remains none the less true that this combination of efforts, those of the Vietnamese and American peoples, will carry ever greater weight in the evolution of events. Everyone knows the overwhelming odds against men of peace and progress in the USA in face of the government's enormous propaganda and repression machine ; gradually, however, the truth has emerged.

The American people have become conscious of the war burden. Professor Reischauer, a former member of the Kennedy administration, takes a look at the tremendous cost of the war : "We pay first in the lives of our young men and in the sorrow and suffering of their families and friends. We pay in the diversion of so much of our national wealth to destructive purposes, wealth we would rather see used for urgent constructive tasks at home and abroad. We pay in national unity because few issues during the past century has so deeply divided the American public or so troubled the American conscience. We pay a high price in our relations with other parts of the world." (in Beyond Viet Nam).

The American people have become alive to the vanity of power politics aimed at world hegemony. Stillman, a member of the Hudson Institute for Strategic Research and a teammate of Herman Kahn, a theoretician of escalation, has admitted that " the American illusion of omnipotence, omnicompetence, and universal responsibility will have to give way to a more realistic understanding that, powerful as we are, we are still a finite entity limited in our capacities and choices." (in Can We Win in Viet Nam?)

A growing number of Americans, horrified by the atrocities perpetrated by the USA in Viet Nam, have reached an overall conception which calls in question both the general policy of Washington and the very foundations of American society. In his book American Power and the New Mandarins, *Professor Chomsky writes : " The US has become the most aggressive power in the world, the greatest threat to peace, to national self-determination, and to international cooperation."*

The Viet Nam war has been an occasion for many Americans to ponder over the causes of racism and violence (the successive murders of the Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King prove that the country is not in normal health), of the continuing poverty of millions of people in the midst of abundance, of the countless difficulties besetting the inhabitants of big cities, and so many other ills plaguing a country of course affluent but sick at the core.

Messrs Nixon and Agnew may pretend to ignore this war protest, or may utter threats, but there is one revealing fact. In his 1964 presidential election campaign, Mr Johnson had already pledged never to send the " boys " to Asia to fight, and in 1968, competing with Humphrey, Mr Nixon had cried out : " The forgotten Americans finally become angry ... because they love America and don't like what has been happening to America for the last four years."

What happened to America in the years 1964 to 1968 was precisely the same adventurous and disastrous war in Viet Nam. Mr Nixon knows quite well that he owes his office to his pledge to bring the war quickly to an end, and that it is no

(Continued page 2)

Hanoi Press Opinion

US "PRISONERS OF WAR" PROPAGANDA PLOY

ON November 12, the US delegate at the UN Social Committee charged North Viet Nam with "inhuman treatment of American prisoners of war", and US Assistant Under-Secretary of State William Sullivan alleged that "North Viet Nam has persisted in its refusal to live up to minumum standards of human treatment."

This was not the first time that the US ruling circles resorted to such a shameless slander. Recently, together with the US Defence Department's "queries about the fate of American prisoners of war", the US ruling circles have tried to induce a number of congressmen to pass resolutions expressing concern over this problem, instructed their representatives at the Paris conference to accuse the DRVN of "inhuman treatment" of American "prisoners of war", and allowed relatives of captured air pirates to go to Paris to seek "information" about them with the aim of rousing American public feeling. But all these attempts of the US have failed to fool public opinion.

The US has had to turn again to this old trick, just because it wants to cover up the savage crimes committed by it and its henchmen in Saigon against tens of thousands of patriots detained in South Viet Nam and to mislead American and world public opinion which is strongly critical of the brutal US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The position and policy of the DRVN Government and people on this issue are quite clear. The US airmen now detained in North Viet Nam are pirates who have bombed and strafed the DRVN on orders from the US Government and were caught in in flagrante delicto. They are completely within the jurisdiction now in force in the DRVN, an independent and sovereign state. However, the DRVN Government and people have so far always given them a humane treatment by allowing them to exchange postcards with, and receive parcels from, their families, and those wounded in combat action or taken ill are given medical care. Many of them who were set free have expressed their sincere thanks to the DRVN Government and people for our humane treatment.

Such a humanitarian behaviour and policy is well known to world public opinion. That is why the US came up against stern criticisms right after its delegate raised the matter of "American prisoners of war" before the UN. A number of delegates from socialist countries pointed out that the US airmen were "aggressors not covered by the Geneva Convention". Many delegates from Asian and African countries and from neutralist countries regarded this move of the US as a "propaganda ploy with domestic purposes", i. e. to mislead the American people and the families of American servicemen who are resolutely militating for the cessation of the war of aggression in Viet Nam and the immediate withdrawal of American boys by the US Government. The Algerian delegate pooh-poohed the US charge and remarked that the DRVN Government and people had "always behaved in an exemplary fashion towards American prisoners."

Every US crafty move to ward off the pressing demands of the American and world's peoples for the cessation of the US war of aggression and immediate pull-out of all US troops from Viet Nam, will certainly fail.

Quan Doi Nhan Dan
(People's Army)
Nov. 16, 1969

Captured US Airmen to Receive Christmas Parcels

THE DRVN General Department of Posts and Telecommunications on Nov. 18 gave the following notice:

"On the occasion of the 1969 Christmas, the DRVN General Department of Posts and Telecommunications agrees to forward parcels to captured American airmen in North Viet Nam from their families.

The fowarding period of these parcels will last from December 1st to December 31st, 1969.

The parcels should be sent according to the procedures already stipulated on previous occasions."

43rd Session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam (November 20, 1969)

Mr XUAN THUY: THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WANTS WAR NOT PEACE

AT the 43rd session of the Paris Conference, Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN government delegation, said the Nixon administration was treading in the steps of the Johnson administration, namely prolonging the aggressive war with the aim of imposing US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam and keeping Viet Nam partitioned for ever. This scheme is being carried out under the so-called program of "Vietnamization" of the war which in fact means that the US intends to drag on the US military occupation of South Viet Nam.

The DRVN chief negotiator criticized Nixon's November 3, 1969 speech in which the US President spoke only about the withdrawal of "combat troops" and kept mum about the pull-out of other units of the US expeditionary corps, and did not mention the total repatriation of all kinds of troops of the US from South Viet Nam. The Nixon administration's plan for troop reduction by dribblets and its "three criteria" are only moves to dodge the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

He also made it clear that since his inauguration, President Nixon had never ceased intensifying the war in Viet Nam, and exerting "maximum military pressure" to win a "position of strength" in negotiations and force the Vietnamese people to accept US terms. The Nixon administration has also expanded the war in Laos and many times encroached upon Cambodia's territory.

With regard to North Viet Nam, in six months from May to October 1969, the average monthly number of US reconnaissance flight is nearly doubled compared with the previous six months. During the last 12 months, US aircraft bombed and strafed North Viet Nam 608 times including 36 times by B-52s. On November 12 and 13, US aircraft savagely bombed many localities in Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province. Minister Xuan Thuy recalled the November 14, 1969 statement of the spokesman of the DRVN Ministry for Foreign Affairs who once more protested strongly against the US encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the DRVN and demanded that the US stop at once such illegal actions.

After denouncing US sticking to its policy of "negotiating on a position of strength" at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and refuting US absurd demand for "mutual troop withdrawal" which in fact means asking the Vietnamese people to lay down their arms and submit to the Saigon administration created by the US, the DRVN envoy pointed out: "That is no flexibility but obduracy. That is no desire for peace but desire for war and aggression. That is no serious attitude in negotiation but one devoid of seriousness."

He quoted many US papers' criticisms of Mr Nixon's November 3 "speech of war" and paid tribute to the American people's ebullient drives for an immediate halt to the aggressive war in Viet Nam and a prompt withdrawal of all US troops, and the movement of progressives in the five continents to support and coordinate their actions with the legitimate struggle of the American people.

"This was an appropriate answer of the American people and the world peoples to President Nixon's November 3 speech of war".

"Will President Nixon comply with the demands of the American people and peace-loving people throughout the world?" he queried. "As for the Vietnamese people, they have over and again made plain their position: peace must go along with genuine independence and freedom. The delegation of the DRVN is ready to reach understanding with the other parties and sign agreements on the basis of the ten points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in case the US government agrees to do so.

"It is obvious that whether the war in Viet Nam continues or will be speedily ended, whether American the DRVN envoy pointed out: "That is no flexibility but obduracy. That is no desire for peace but desire for war and aggression. That is no serious attitude in negotiation but one devoid of seriousness."

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"It is obvious that whether the war in Viet Nam continues or will be speedily ended, whether American troops continue to be sent to a useless death in South Viet Nam or will soon be allowed to return to their families, whether the Paris Conference on Viet Nam continues marking time or will rapidly achieve results, depends on whether the Nixon administration will renounce its policy of colonial aggression or not," the DRVN representative concluded.

An Irreversible Movement...

(Continued from page 1)

longer possible to scorn that unprecedented mass movement in American history. All thinking people, in the United States and in the world, know that it is an irreversible on.

For beyond Viet Nam, it is the future of America itself which is at stake. Will it let itself be dominated by the military-industrial complex, by what Juan Bosch calls Pentagonism? Will it let itself be dragged into even more disastrous Viet Nams? Or will it come back to a sounder conception of international life, based on respect for other nations and other peoples? Will American society be caught in the infernal round of internal violence closely connected with external violence, or will it be able to foster the necessary forces to bring about a truly democratic and human social order?

The Vietnamese people are deeply aware of the problems facing men of peace and progress in America. They know that the common struggle now being waged by themselves and the American people for an end to the war will necessarily be prolonged beyond the restoration of peace by friendly collaboration aimed at building a better world. The friendship and fraternity binding the Vietnamese fighters to the peace fighters in the United States can only be strengthened day after day and constitute, amidst the agonies of the present war, one of the best hopes for the future.

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

US CRIMES IN U MINH JUNGLE AREA

US B-52s and artillery in October indiscriminately attacked civilians in U Minh jungle area in Western Nam Bo, killing and wounding hundreds of people, damaging nearly 100 houses, and devastating hundreds of hectares of crops and other vegetation, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

On October 21, an area 4km by 80 metres in Kinh Ton area was subjected to US aerial bombardments. 96 people including 22 children were on the casualty list and 32 dwelling houses destroyed.

Also in October, 115 casualties were inflicted on the Bieu Bach, Tri Phai and Tap Pha villages, Ca Mau province, by US air and artillery strikes.

Appeal from behind US-Puppet Prison Walls*

IN a statement smuggled out of Thu Duc prison, 12km from Saigon, South Vietnamese women political prisoners who have survived the most atrocious torture and repression have given some details of their nightmarish life in the prison.

Recorded in the statement were, among other things, these four cases of cold-blooded murder during the bloody days of August 21 and 22 last, with the names and other particulars of the victims:

— Dang Thi Ranh, 16, from Dieu Ga hamlet, Binh Phuoc village, Thu Duc district, Gia Dinh province;

— Nguyen Thi Tan, from Cholon;

— Nguyen Thi Xuan Dao, from Son Hoi village, Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province;

— Khong Que Kinh, 21, a Chinese national.

Ranh and Tan had been seriously ill for a week. Still they were taken off to the torture room, where the enemy beat them with sticks and forced water into their mouths and noses. Both succumbed on the night of August 21.

Dao was flogged separately. She was left without any care the whole day of August 22, and died at midnight. Kinh was also moribund, after the beating, when the enemy dragged her body away.

The statement also gave the names of 12 prisoners spirited away during the repression. They were Ly Que Chi, 30; Lam Xuan Hao, 25; Nguyen Thi Cuc, 17; Vo Thi Lan, 16; Le Hong Quan, 19; Nguyen Ngoc Diep alias Le, 32; Le Thi Hai, 37; Que Lan, 25; and Nguyen Thi Cam, 32.

Prior to August 21, the statement continued, altogether 30 prisoners had been beaten to physical disability. They were Tran Thi Buu Lien, 47; Ho Thi Ut, 45, Nguyen Thi Thanh; Huynh Thi Khinh; Nguyen Thi Hiep; Tran Thi Binh; Le Thi Xang, 26; Nguyen Thi Bay; Dang Thi Hue; Trinh Thu Nga; Ty To Thi Nou; Nguyen Thi Bong; Pham Thi Bach Tuyet; Nguyen Thi Lai; Quach Kim Anh; Tran Thi Hong Loan; Nguyen Thi Hong Loan; Nguyen Thi Hanh; Pham Thi Mai; Nguyen Thi Nhan; Nguyen Thi Hien; Pham Thi Duc; Ho Thi Miet, 21; Vo Thi Ut; Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa; Nguyen Thi Thanh, 21; Huynh Thi Kieu Thu, 15; Nguyet, 21; Le Thi Hoa, 25; and Le Thi Huong.

The statement cited a few typical cases of savage torture inflicted on the inmates:

Tran Thi Binh was summoned to the torure room on June 16, 1969. Other methods having proved ineffective, Duong Ngoc Minh, the chief warder, ordered two agents to take off her trousers and hold her legs apart, and he himself forced a skewer into her genitals. After that, the two agents tied her nipples with some plastic cord, and pulled at them from opposite directions. The torturers also struck the palms of her feet till they swelled out of all proportions.

Tran Thi Buu Lien and Nguyen Thi Thanh were subjected to a different kind of torture. The enemy stuffed lime into their mouths and genitals, and kicked at the latter.

As for Nguyen Thi Bay, a short-sighted Saigon schoolmistress, her eyes were filled with lime. The torturers also wrenched off all her lower teeth.

Before her arrival at Thu Duc, 15-year-old Huynh Thi Kieu Thu had been caned to incapacity in Gia Dinh prison. In the Thu Duc prison the enemy once beat her from 10 p.m. to midnight, and left her in the rain till the next morning.

At 10 p.m. on July 29, To Thi Tam was taken to the torture room, where the enemy slashed her face after caning her.

There were also mass floggings.

On March 4, 1969, inmates of Ward L were ordered out for preventive inoculation. At the medical station, however, the guards fell on them and beat them up.

At 9 a.m. on April 10, prisoners in Ward A were summoned to the chief warder's office, where enemy agents were waiting for them with sticks. The prisoners were beaten till they could no longer stand on their feet. In the evening, there was another beating, no less savage than the first.

On August 15, 1969, prison guards suddenly broke into Ward Z, firing like mad into the air. Then they bore upon the prisoners with sticks, bricks or stones. The floor and walls were profusely smeared with blood afterwards.

The statement listed the following tortures:

— Flogging with truncheons, rattan canes, old bicycle tires, sharp-edged sticks, etc.

— Beating the prisoners who were blindfolded and hung above the ground by their tied hands and feet.

— Caustic lime treatment.

— Caustic lime treatment combined with beating. The prisoners would thus unconsciously breathe and suck in the lime, while squirming under the blows.

— The savaging of prisoners' genitals by means of sharp-edged sticks, most of the time by the chief warder himself.

— Knocking out the prisoners' teeth.

— Slashing the prisoners' faces.

The statement appealed to all Vietnamese and the world's peoples including the Americans to take drastic measures to end US aggression and a despotic regime which are dragging the Vietnamese nation through fire and sword, bringing shame upon mankind and shocking the conscience of honest Americans.

* *See* Viet Nam Courier *Nos 238 and 243.*

Son My Massacre at Last Admitted by Western Press

THE world is shocked by the news of the massacre by an American unit of more than 500 South Vietnamese civilians during an operation near Quang Ngai provincial capital early last year.

BBC reported on Nov. 18 that people were waiting for the decision whether or not a lieutenant, commander of the unit, and a sergeant, accused of involvement in the massacre, would be brought to the military court. In face of the public demand for clarifications, the US spokesman in Saigon declined commenting on the report.

The truth is however stark clear. The emergency statement on March 25, 1968 of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Committee in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) dated March 25, 1968, denounced a US and Pak Jung Hi troops' major operation in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces, during which they killed over 1,200 civilians. In Son My village alone, more than 500 people, mostly old people, women and children, were killed in a single day.

The US aggressors have since left no stone unturned to whitewash their crimes. Now they are trying to minimize their crimes by putting the blame on a number of subaltern COs of the US expeditionary troops. Naturally, public opinion is demanding that the criminals directly involved in the massacre must answer for their crimes. But people are also pointing their accusing fingers to the chief culprits who are the ringleaders of the aggression.

US crimes are piling up every day. These are wanton bombings, strafings and shellings of heavily populated areas. These are indiscriminate destruction of forests and ricefields with napalm and toxic chemicals. These are the massacres in Ba Lang An, Kong Hi'Ring, Poulo Condor Island, Tay Ninh and most recently, the odious victimization of over 1,400 women political prisoners at the Thu Duc prison.

American public opinion also has many times denounced the US and puppets' crimes. At a Senate subcommittee, Bishop James Armstrong who had just returned from an inspection tour of South Viet Nam denounced on June 25 the US army for using toxic chemical and napalm and bombs against civilians. The report submitted by the US Study Team on Religious and Political Freedom on June 17 after an inspection tour of South Viet Nam from May 25 to June 10, 1969 has mentioned the suppression by the US and the Saigon puppet of the religious and political "freedom" and the very harsh regime of detention in South Viet Nam.

In a commentary on the US government's release of the American "Green Berets", who killed a captain of the puppet army, the *International Herald Tribune* on October 11 said, "the Green Berets case emerges as a giant whitewash."

The American people are now standing up against Nixon's aggressive war more and more resolutely. The US heinous crimes have become more and more evident. The recent vigorous campaign of the people in the United States and the world as a whole against Nixon's war policy has forcefully demonstrated their firm will to bring the US aggressive war in Viet Nam to a halt.

Hundreds of Corpses of Puppet Soldiers Thrown into the Sea

IN an engagement on the night of Nov. 5, 1969, the PLAF exacted a toll of over 700 GIs and puppet troops, burnt or sank 13 enemy vessels at the village of Dong Hung and Market No 11, An Bien district, Rach Gia province, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

In order to conceal the reverse, on Nov. 6 paratroops were dropped on that area to pick up the corpses of puppet marines, regular armymen and members of "civic defence" units, hundreds of which were thrown into the territorial waters of An Bien district.

This has touched off indignation among puppet soldiers, namely of the Third Brigade of Marines, the Riverine Task Force No 74 and artillery Company C. "Alive, we are food for powder, dead, our bodies are food for fishes" they commented.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF «VIETNAMIZATION» OF THE WAR

IN following the developments of the US war in Viet Nam over these last fifteen years, one has witnessed great economic and financial difficulties of the US and its Saigon stooges, which have been increasing with the prolongation of the war and, in proportion to its repeated setbacks. In the test of the Viet Nam war, the American dollar has experienced its most disastrous bankruptcy. The Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet regime is struggling desperately to balance its budget which is out of proportion to its revenue.

BANKRUPTCY OF THE DOLLAR IN THE VIET NAM WAR ADVENTURE

ESCALATION and de-escalation on the US war in Viet Nam have brought about the following economic and financial results:

From 4.4 billion dollars for the first ten years (1955-1964), the US war expenditures in Viet Nam skyrocketed with the massive landing of GIs in South Viet Nam and the unleashing of the war of destruction against North Viet Nam: 1.5 billion in 1965, 16 billion in 1966, 30 billion in 1967 and 30-35 billion in each of the years 1968 and 1969 (official figures revealed by the press which exclude indirect war expenses). This sudden swelling of the US Viet Nam war budget immediately has led to a budgetary imbalance never known in US history (nearly 10 billion in 1966, and 10-15 billion in each of the years 1967, 1968 and 1969), which roughly tallies with the Viet Nam war costs.

Externally, despite a favourable commercial balance, propped up by drastic measures to curb overseas spendings, the balance of US account has been most unfavourable (at the least 3 billion on the average since 1967, equal well-nigh also to the 2-3 billion outlay for the Viet Nam war).

The financial deficits of the US at home and abroad have had these two serious effects on US finance, currency and economy: galloping inflation and incurable gold haemorrhage.

In its turn, inflation has boomeranged on the prices which have been soaring unceasingly in the US on an average of 5 to 6 per cent annually. For US economy which has started its periodical crises at the end of World War II, this price escalation has depreciated the wages and actual income of the toiling masses. The continuous price spiralling has been aggravated by growing taxation, which has been following this upward course: 26 per cent of the national income in the Second World War years, 29 per cent during the Korean war, 37 per cent in the Viet Nam war. The 10 per cent fiscal adjunction temporarily requested by Johnson was prolonged till the end of his term of office. It has been maintained now by Nixon.

The gold reserve of the US estimated at 22.8 billion dollars in 1958 has dwindled by over one half in ten years. In the middle of 1968, when Johnson was forced to walk out of the race to the Presidency with tears in the eyes, to agree to scale down the war of destruction in North Viet Nam and to enter into talks with the DRVN in Paris, this reserve fluctuated around 10 billion dollars, thus reaching the limits of the guarantee of one quarter of the sum of money in circulation required by US law in 1913 (by the end of 1967, this rose to 41.6 billion dollars).

This serious situation (inflation, price hikes, tax increase, gold flight...) has forced the US to admit two historical, bitter monetary reverses: on the one hand, the government has had to cancel the 1913 law requiring a gold reserve of one quarter of the value of the currency issued; on the other, it has had to authorize two gold markets, the one "official" but "closed", reserved for transactions between State banks, maintained at the rate of 35 US dollars to an ounce of gold; the other "free" but "without participation of the Gold Pool and State banks", leaving the gold currency to the mercy of the supply and demand law. For all impartial observers, this is the end of the "gold exchange standard" system with 35 US dollars to an ounce of gold. The dollar will never circulate freely on a fixed par with gold. It has in fact lost its special privileges as an international currency whose gold equivalence (for the capitalist world) was established at Bretton Woods nearly a quarter of a century ago.

The above-mentioned figures show that the US Viet Nam adventure has resulted in pitiful economic, financial and monetary setbacks for the wealthiest and most powerful capitalist country. The neo-colonialist conquest undertaken by the US has proved to be beyond its financial and monetary capacities. The mass movement against the Viet Nam war now spreading in the US has its economic grounds.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE PUPPET REGIME

A staunch proponent of neo-colonialism, Nixon came to this conclusion, when vice-president of the US, that the upkeep of an American serviceman abroad was five times that of an "Allied" soldier for the defence of the "free world". He also said that for one dollar of American aid, 80 cents were in fact spent in the US, only 20 cents abroad. This is a kind of calculation typical of US neo-colonialism which aims at setting Asians against Asians and Vietnamese against Vietnamese, and feeding war with war. During these last fifteen years, the whole US neo-colonialist policy in Viet Nam and in the world has been but the implementation of these economic and financial "principles". The South Viet Nam puppet regime and army is only a creation made viable by US aid under all forms (military or economic, direct or indirect, with or without a programme). Many foreign observers including Americans who have visited South Viet Nam, say that US aid is, for the Saigon regime, a kind of iron lungs without which it could not survive even one day.

However, at present, as its local war in South Viet Nam has been meeting setback after setback, the US is trying by its "Vietnamization" of the war, to substitute puppet troops (by dribblets of course) for GIs, to prop up US finance and dollars by the puppet regime's finance and money.

In his speech of November 1st last, Nguyen Van Thieu said: "With regard to our ally, the US, who has been lending us a most helping hand, we must understand that this Viet Nam war is for it the longest of wars, its contributions in men and money are also too great. However rich it may be, the US is affected by the war if nobody shares its war burden... Who can partake in these contributions with it? Nobody but we the Vietnamese!"

What an illusion! It is US aid dollars which have created the puppet regime and army, and now it is the staggering US colossus who wants to clutch at a straw: the Saigon regime! It is the American greenback which has served as basis for the Saigon currency and which is now asking the latter for help!

Nixon thinks that in four years (from 1969 to 1972) 6.2 billion dollars of US aid will suffice to realize his "Vietnamization" of the war. What are the bases of his hope?

This 6.2-billion aid will break down into 1.5 billion a year. Up to now, if one includes direct aid (in munitions and war materials) granted directly and not in the form of goods, and defence aid in a commercialized form, US aid given to the Saigon regime has amounted to one billion dollar per year on the average (roughly half for direct military aid and half for commercialized aid). Nixon wants to boost aid to the Saigon regime by half a billion a year. Commercialized aid will not be tapped, but military aid: the US will supply arms, ammunition and war surplus to keep going the army of the quisling administration. This is just a great headache for the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique; hence the November 1st speech delivered by Nguyen van Thieu. In consequence, this annual budget of the Saigon administration must make a high jump: from 130 billion (Saigon currency) in 1969, it will be raised next year to 230 billion, or nearly the double, that is wellnigh equal to the quantity of currency issued (130 billion as stated by Thieu). That is why Thieu is resolved to increase by from 100 to 600 per cent the taxation rates of a whole range of 1,500 items of imports and to raise the price of petrol and oil, which measure has touched off the price spiralling and an unprecedented speculation and hoarding. The abrupt boost has seriously affected the real wages income of the toiling masses, office and factory workers and armymen.

Nguyen Van Thieu has sought to explain with tears in his eyes that this was not a devaluation of the currency but rather a step against price rise and inflation, for economic stabilization. What a stupid and cynical deception! Nobody is taken in and certainly not those with fixed incomes whose purchasing power drops considerably. It is therefore easy to understand the growing opposition of the South Viet Nam people to the Saigon quislings.

THUS the initial attempt to implement US "Vietnamization" of the war has been undertaken in a real economic chaos in the enemy-controlled areas in South Viet Nam. Great political disturbances are looming large as a result of this situation, and are not likely to strengthen the treacherous regime on which Mr. Nixon depends for the achievement of his "Vietnamization" plan.

In other respects, will Nixon's policy of pursuing the war with withdrawal of GIs in small doses be able to perform a financial and monetary miracle, to stop inflation and gold flight? Another piece of deception! Continued hostilities and kept-up "maximum military pressure" will inevitably entail a series of economic and financial consequences which will certainly neither lighten the budgetary burden, nor check inflation. Only their immediate cessation will enable the US to get out of its present impasse, of the "tunnel with no end in sight" of J.F. Kennedy, and will enable it to improve its financial, monetary and economic position.

Steady Slump of Saigon Currency

THE steep rise in commodity prices following the imposition of heavy "austerity taxes" on imported goods has resulted in serious devaluation of the piastre in the South Viet Nam towns.

In Saigon, the rate of exchange, officially 118 piastres to a dollar, has now gone up to 230 or even 270 piastres to a dollar at the black-market. With regard to the franc, the blackmarket rate now stands at 46/1. Last week it was 40/1.

The Saigon currency underwent two official devaluations between 1961 and 1966, with the piastre-dollar rate going from 35/1 to 60/1, and then to 118/1.

US Mid-November Mass Actions — A Relevant Answer to Nixon Policy

ONCE again, the militant voice of the true America, the peace-, justice- and freedom-loving America, the America of the overwhelming majority of the American people, was raised, eloquent and forceful, on November 13, 14 and 15.

Following Nixon's November 3rd address, the US administration tried with every possible means to cope with the second drive of the Fall Offensive of the American people for an end to the aggressive war against Viet Nam, and an immediate and total withdrawal of the US troops.

Washington was transformed by them into an "armed city" with tens of thousands of troops standing by. The White House was fenced off with barbed wire. Hundreds of paratroops and a whole battalion of Marines were assigned to the protection of the Department of Justice and the Congress building. Nixon made a surprise visit to the Senate and the House of Representatives — which visit was unprecedented in US history — to thank those Congressmen who had shown support for cities and towns of the United States, there were parades, rallies, candlelight marches, requiems, readings of names of GIs killed in Viet Nam, with the attendance of people of all colours of skin, all social classes and all political leanings. In San Francisco, 250,000 people staged the biggest anti-war demonstration ever in Western America. But it was in Washington, the federal capital bearing the name of the great hero of the independence of America, that the American people's action reached its climax in those days of effervescence. The headquarters of the Command of the Viet Nam war which has been smearing the honour of Washington's America, were the rallying point of delegations coming from all the American States. The "March against Death", beginning Nov. 13 with 45,000 participants and culminating in the 300,000-strong demonstration on Nov. 15, was described by the *Voice of America* on Nov. 16 as the biggest anti-war demonstration to date in the United States. It took on the aspect of an immense river flowing from the Arlington National Cemetery to the White House and the Capitol, whose powerful waves drove into inaction the 40,000 troops and policemen armed to the teeth while forcing Nixon to shut himself up in the White House for the whole duration of the protest. It was an explosion of the justified wrath of large segments of the American people who organized themselves to shout with all the strength of their solidarity and unity to the faces of Nixon and his aides: Stop all your equivocations, bring home now all American troops!

Overseas Americans in France, Italy, Austria, West Berlin, West Germany, Spain, Japan, Hongkong, Philippines, Tanzania, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana... including students, workers, technicians and even personnel of such notorious organs of the US machine of subversion and aggression as the "Peace Corps", and US Information Centres, also held demonstrations and meetings or sent home petitions urging an end to the aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Following the first moratorium (October 15), the success of the recent mid-November campaign proves that the movement against the Viet Nam war has not ceased to consolidate and expand, that more and more Americans have seen through the bellicose and aggressive stance of the Nixon administration concerning the Viet Nam problem and are resolved to stay its hands. The majority of the American people have given a relevant answer to Nixon's November 3 address. They do not let themselves be fooled by the US warmongers' plea about their "Vietnamization of the war" or "Vietnamization of peace". Neither have they let the US administration play upon their patriotism with chauvinist exhortations. Though the Nixon administration has resorted to all schemes to coax them, many people in the US political circles have listened to the voice of their conscience and taken sides with progressives in the country.

The American people's Fall Offensive against the war of aggression in Viet Nam has had ever wider repercussions and enjoyed ever warmer response in the world. In co-ordination with the American people's action, the peoples of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland have over recent days held many meetings to support of the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression and strongly condemn the US imperialist aggressors. In the GDR, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba, Czechoslovakia and the United Arab Republic, the people also staged diversified actions in support of the Vietnamese people and reiterated their demand for an immediate and total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

In many other countries like France, Italy, West Germany, West Berlin, Spain, Great Britain, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, Australia, Zambia, Argentina, people also manifested their sympathy with the Vietnamese and American peoples, defying repression by the local administrations. In Tel Aviv particularly, though living under the rule of a reactionary government — known for its complete allegiance to the US imperialists, hundreds of demonstrators assembled in front of the US Embassy and chanted, "Yankees, hands off Viet Nam!"

Mrs Coretta King, a Black leader of the popular drive against the Viet Nam war, declared at a Saint Louis rally that that war was "not worth one drop of American blood." A large number of American youths and their parents have realized that Johnson's war in the past and Nixon's war at present is not their war. This war has devastated Viet Nam and damaged US moral and material life. An end to this war and an immediate and total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam so that the South Vietnamese people are free to decide their own destiny without foreign interference is the unswerving position of the Vietnamese people and also the objective sought by the American people for their own genuine interests.

To the Vietnamese people, the American people have never been and will never be a foe, instead they are their companions-in-arms fighting against the common enemy — the bellicose US aggressors. Through this valiant, protracted and hard but certainly victorious struggle against the common enemy, the Vietnamese have gained a better and better understanding of, and developed a greater and greater love for, US progressives. The friendship between the peoples of the two countries forged in the flames of a common struggle, will strengthen and develop with every passing day.

On Nov. 14, 1969 New Yorkers released thousands of balloons representing GIs killed in Viet Nam, as a sign of protest against the continuation of the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

More Americans Protest Nixon's War

THE anti-war moratorium in the United States continues to have a strong impact on the Americans', life in spite of all manoeuvres of the US ruling circles to play down its significance.

● The *New York Times* on November 15 carried the story of an American officer, Captain J. Goldstein, working as a dentist in the 38th Medical Team, stationed in the Long Binh logistic base, near Saigon. He had not taken part so far in any form in the American people's anti-war movement against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. But recently Goldstein was seen collecting signatures to a resolution among American servicemen, urging the US administration to end the war.

His wife, Vicky, a participant in the October 15 Moratorium Day, visited her husband who was on leave in Hawaii and told him about her activities on the Day. Goldstein finally decided to join the anti-war movement by starting a signature collection.

As of now, he has collected 125 signatures including those of artillerymen doctors, police... and more than 30 officers including a lieutenant-colonel and two majors.

● Two former US ambassadors were among the 69 American citizens in Geneva who issued a statement on November 17 supporting the second Viet Nam Moratorium, AP reported.

The ex-diplomats are James Roosevelt, eldest son of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and one-time ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and James Wine, formerly US ambassador to Luxembourg and the Ivory Coast.

The statement said:

"We, the undersigned concerned and responsible Americans living temporarily abroad having assembled last night, unanimously agreed:

"First: We oppose American foreign policy toward Viet Nam and urge its change.

"Second: We support the Moratorium.

"Third: We insist on the withdrawal now of all US military personnel from Viet Nam."

SOUTH VIET NAM ALLIANCE LEADER WRITES TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

LAWYER Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, and Vice-President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, has addressed a letter to the American people in connection with their current drive for an end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. The letter reads *inter alia*:

"Mr. Nixon has secured for himself the presidency, with the promise to end the war inside of six months. But nearly one year has elapsed, and Mr. Nixon has done nothing to honour his word. He continues intensifying the war, inflicting more death and destruction on the Vietnamese people and the American people.

"Refusing to sit with folded arms before this disastrous situation, and resolved to preserve their tradition of freedom and justice, Americans of all strata including intellectuals from the spheres of natural and social sciences, cultural and art workers, religious activists, congressmen, housewives, young men and women, students, a number from the ruling circles, and even servicemen – demobilized or in active service — everywhere in the United States, and even on the battlefield, have risen up to demand that the Nixon administration stop the war, and bring all US troops home.

"These brave acts of the American friends have greatly moved the intellectuals, the bourgeoisie, and South Viet Nam townspeople of other strata. I myself feel greatly indebted to you."

The letter went on to say:

"As you know well, so long as American troops are not withdrawn rapidly, they have to face a useless death, the Americans' money will go on being quandered away, their conscience will be offended, and the prestige and honour of the United States will be impaired and stained. And all this is intended to prosecute a cruel war of aggression and to protect a handful of Saigon puppets.

"The South Vietnamese people including those living in the cities, are resolved to fight until their true independence and freedom are reconquered. We have been doing exactly what the American people did a century ago and what any people desirous to live in freedom must do. Therefore the South Vietnamese people have always regarded the American people as their friends, in whose veins runs the blood of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. We are determined to strengthen even further the solidarity between our two peoples."

The letter ended with best wishes of success for the "Fall Offensive" of the American people.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELAN PEOPLE (Nov. 21)

SUPPORT TO VENEZUELAN PEOPLE'S JUST STRUGGLE

LYING in the Northern part of South America, Venezuela is rich in mineral ores, especially petroleum (second largest producer of the capitalist world). It has become an independent country since 1811, but this is merely a matter of form. In fact it is a US colony and military base directed against the Cuban revolution and the national liberation movement in Latin America. In January 1963, the Venezuelan NFL called on all progressive forces to rally in the struggle for national independence, freedom and democracy and for the abolition of the disguised US colonial system. The armed forces have been built, strengthened and developed in almost all states. In cities, tactical combat units are very active, punishing scoundrels and destroying US economic installations. Political action involving workers, peasants, students and intellectuals is gaining momentum. A proof of its effectiveness was the cancellation by the Venezuelan government of a planned visit to this country by Rockefeller last July.

Confronted with the powerful struggle of the Venezuelan people, the US imperialists have worked hand in glove with local reactionary rulers in carrying out bloody repression: shoot first and look after. American officers have directly mapped out

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SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE 3-DAY ANTI-WAR DRIVE IN THE US

● On Nov. 13: In **Washington**, 45,000 demonstrators coming from various states began the March Against Death through the capital. The marchers set out from Arlington national cemetery, crossed the Potomac to the Lincoln memorial and paraded past the White House.

● In **New York**, representatives of 250,000 workers affiliated to various trade unions held a meeting in support of the march against the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

● On Nov. 14: 45,000 demonstrators continued their anti-death march while columns of war protesters kept pouring into **Washington** from every state in the Union to take part in the big rally on Nov. 15. Braving the rain and the chill wind, holding lighted candles and carrying each a placard bearing the name of an American GIs killed in Viet Nam, the demonstrators marched in silence as a sign of protest against Nixon's war policy in Viet Nam.

Some 3,000 people, mostly youths, staged a meeting at DuPont Club to denounce President Nixon's obstinate efforts to maintain in office the puppet Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. They waved flags of the RSVN and shouted "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh!" to demonstrate their support to the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

● On Nov. 15: 300,000 Americans coming from virtually all states of the Union converged on **Washington** to take part in a rally, the biggest ever known in US history, in protest against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. At the rally, many prominent personalities including Mrs. Coretta King, widow of Martin Luther King, and Senators Charles Goodell and McGovern, in their addresses, strongly condemned the Nixon Administration's persistence in dragging out its criminal war in Viet Nam.

● Many theatres in **New York** gave free shows of anti-war films including "Terry Withmore", the true story of a Black GI who had been decorated on many occasions by the US president for "bravery" in Viet Nam but later sought asylum in Sweden.

ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

UNDER the cloak of "independence", the Philippines is in fact a new-type US colony. The US has built 23 military bases on Filipino territory, among them the Clark airfield and the Subic naval base which are being used by US rulers in their war against Viet Nam. For a step-up of this war, Washington has forced the Philippines to supply it with cannon-fodder in the form of a civic action group (Philcag).

White House bosses claim that the Philippines is a "show case of American democracy in Asia", but under the yoke of the Yankees and their Filipino hangmen, thousands of Filipino workers have been driven out of job, while the peasants have had to pay up to 70 per cent of their produce to land-owners and all democratic liberties have been suppressed.

Since 1965, many mass demonstrations have erupted in the country under the slogans "The Philippines to Filipinos!", "Filipinos don't want the US!" and "Immediate withdrawal of Filipino troops from Viet Nam!"

This opposition keeps growing and, in recent years, it has gained in magnitude. During August, September and October 1968, demonstrations were staged successively outside the US Embassy in Manila and even in proximity of Clark field. On Sept. 24 1968, 2,000 University students, carrying a black coffin as a symbol of their fight to a finish against US imperialism, gathered in front of the US Embassy, demanding the dismantling of US military bases and the recall of Filipino mercenaries from Viet Nam. On Sept. 30, 1968, another action was held outside the Clark air base by 25,000 people. Remarkable enough was the hostile reception given to President Nixon when he visited the Philippines last July. Hardly had he set foot on Manila, on the evening of July 26, when hundreds of youths and students assembled outside the US Embassy and Malacanang Palace with placards urging him to get out at once and put an immediate end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. On Oct. 10, 5,000 workers and students called a meeting in front of the US Embassy in protest against commanders of a US base who offended the Filipinos' national honour by acquitting a US soldier who had murdered a Filipino worker. The demonstrators pressed for the dismantling of US military bases. They stormed the gates of the embassy building and clashed with policemen and troops sent in to deal with them.

Meanwhile, the peasants' drive against the US and its agents continues to progress. Guerilla warfare with its heroic tradition has flared up again in Luzon. End Nov. 1968, local authorities had to proclaim a state of war in Central Luzon and 3,000 soldiers were deployed in "sweeps" against guerillas active in 5 provinces. Accord. ing to *AP* early in October this year, the guerilla movement was extended from Northern Luzon to the Southern provinces and, according to *AFP*, it even reached the 6 provinces in Central and South Philippines.

Of late, the popular movement has drawn in new social strata: many professors, political figures, businessmen and congressmen have come out for revision of the unequal treaties between the Philippines and the US and pull-out of Filipino troops from Viet Nam.

These developments throw light on the conduct of Philippine President Marcos following the Nov. 11 presidential elections. During the election campaign, he took an "anti-American" stance, urged revision of the treaties on US military bases and on joint-defense and promised to protect national rights and carry out an economic policy of land reform, etc...

After his return to the Presidency, he declared his intention to bring home the 2,000 members of Philcag now stationed in Viet Nam.

A hopeful sign of the times! Philippine rulers have finally been compelled to take into account their people's anti-American feeling!

News from LAOS

6,500 Enemy Troops Wiped Out in 5 Months

THE Laotian patriotic forces obtained far big. ger military successes in the last monsoon season than in any other previous corresponding periods, *Khaosan Pathet Lao* said on the strength of initial estimates.

To make good their heavy setbacks in their encroaching attacks on the free zone in the previous dry season, the US and right-wing force in the monsoon this year (beginning June and ending October) launched repeated and large-scale operations against the free zone and intensified their aerial bombing to a high level. Most serious of all, they threw some 5,000 Thailand combat troops into the battle in Xieng Khoang to co-ordinate with American "Green Berets" and the rightist forces in an desperate nibbling raid on the Plain of Jars.

Holding firm the initiative, right in the early days of the rainy season, the patriotic armed forces overran the enemy military complex in Muong Sui area, a major enemy military base in Western Xieng Khoang, Upper Laos, which comprises 60 positions covering about 600 square kilometres. In the engagements at Muong Sui, the patriots put out of action over 1,500 enemy troops, seized hundreds of firearms and some 40 military vehicles. In a deep thrust into the enemy garrison in Thalat area in July, the patriots wiped out 150 enemy troops and destroyed 22 military trucks.

Many renewed enemy incursions on the free zone in the period under review were foiled or hurled back, like the ones in Tong Khe area(Sam Neua province) in June, Pak U, Pak Seung and Phathong areas (Luang Prabang province) in June and July, Northern Sedone (Saravane province) and Muong Phin, Bungsang and Tumlan area (Savannakhet province) in September and October... All told, nearly 1,000 adverse troops were knocked out in these combats.

The patriots also stepped up their punitive operations against US-fostered bandits in Upper Laos, disabling nearly 1,000 of them in the monsoon season.

Fierce fighting is now going on in the Plain of Jars — Xieng Khoang area where the US "Green Berets", Thai mercenaries and rightist troops have been badly trounced.

According to incomplete statistics in the 5 months of the rainy season, the enemy lost over 6,500 troops including many American "advisors" or "Green Berets" and Thailand combat troops. The puppets' casualties included some to field officers.

Support to Venezuelan...

(Continued page 6)

operational plans and commanded raids on the local people. US Green Berets have taken part in these operations. On the other hand, Venezuelan rulers seek to lull into inactivity popular opposition and sow division among revolutionary forces. However, no amount of manoeuvring can shake the Venezuelan people's will to fight to a finish. They are resolved to carry on so long as the neo-colonialist structure, exploitation and injustice still exist, as made clear by the NFL and National Liberation Armed Forces in their April 4, 1969 communiqué.

The movement of the Venezuelan people is a part of the world-wide drive for national liberation.

The Vietnamese people have closely followed the persistent effort of the Venezuelan people and regard the latter's achievements as a source of active encouragement for their own anti-US resistance for national salvation.

On the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Venezuelan people (Nov. 21), the Vietnamese people express sincere thanks to the Communist Party and people of Venezuela for their valuable support and wish them ever greater successes.

The Tay Ninh Town Girl Guerilla

AT the age of fifteen, Nguyet daily went to Tay Ninh town to collect kitchen waste. She sold it and spent part of the money to help her aunt Tu. With two tin buckets and a pole weighing on her frail shoulders, she went to almost all nooks and corners of the town. Many heart-rending street scenes filled her with indignation, but she knew how to contain it and contented herself with relating them to her aunt. Once she witnessed a puppet soldier beat to death a cyclocab driver for the simple reason that having refused to pay the fare, he felt ashamed when the poor man persisted in claiming it. Under the Saigon puppet regime, murder and robbery were of daily occurrences in the streets. Nguyet harboured a deep hatred for the enemy.

At night she came to Uncle Bay Sanh's to learn. Uncle Bay had been her father's comrade during the resistance against the French. Her father had regrouped in the North so Uncle Bay had adopted her as his daughter.

"Do you want to join the Revolution?" he asked her one day.

The words "join the Revolution" made her feel that she had quite grown up. From that moment, she always returned home late, after going to Tay Ninh town about her job. She now carried documents, now scattered leaflets before the enemy post and always fulfilled all tasks entrusted to her. Her resourcefulness and her shrewdness gave Uncle Bay great satisfaction.

Once she carried two pistols from Tay Ninh town to the guerilla base. When she passed by the enemy post, a puppet sentry in a watch-tower half-jokingly said:

"Hey, younger sister, do your buckets contain some hardware?"

The question sent a shiver down her spine but she quickly pulled herself together. She winked at the sentinel, and replied with a laugh:

"I've got a couple of pistols entrusted by the VC. If you want them, come down here and I'll let you have one!"

Thinking that was a mere joke from a little girl, the puppet soldier laughed heartily and waved Nguyet on.

Uncle Bay's trust in her capability grew and he did not hesitate to give her important assignments. The guerillas in the town then badly needed hand grenades. To smuggle arms and ammunition into the town was a very difficult job because of the enemy's tight informers' network. Nguyet was the only one to have a nodding acquaintance with many puppet soldiers on guard along the road leading to the town. Uncle Bay handed her four grenades, and said:

"Be loyal to the Revolution whatever may happen. I wish you good success."

Nguyet went downtown with two baskets of salted duck eggs to be delivered to a grocer's. In each basket were hidden two grenades. To provide against the worst, she kept one of them handy. By so doing she thought that when necessary, she would be able to get a few of them... She fearlessly passed in front of the guard-post. A puppet soldier wearing sunglasses, his hands in his shorts' pockets, arrogantly challenged:

"Hey, little girl! What do your baskets contain to look so heavy? Have you something eatable?"

"Very sorry, dear Sir," Nguyet stopped and answered distinctly. "Nothing but salted duck eggs."

Gathering at the post gate, the thugs were watching her. She counted: one, two, three... Fourteen of them rushed out.

"Have they found my secret?" she asked herself. "Why do they know that my baskets contain grenades? Impossible! They just are after something eatable. The two baskets of eggs could be sacrificed easily, but the four grenades, if they fell into the enemy's hands, it would be important loss for the guerillas. Well, if the worst comes to the worst, I'll destroy you all, devils."

She then gently laid her baskets down on the ground and calmly said:

"These eggs are to much salted. Just wait for me a moment. As I live near here, let me run home and bring you excellent half-hatched eggs."

Nguyet's offer was to the puppet soldiers' liking, so they laughed cheerfully and let her go home.

When she was about a hundred metres away, she looked back and saw, just as she expected, the puppet soldiers disputing over the eggs. Of course they tampered with the grenade she had prepared, which triggered a series of sharp explosions. Knowing that it was impossible to live, she stopped and stood looking in the direction from which the detonations came. Fourteen enemy troops including one American were knocked down by the four grenades.

She was arrested, detained in the post and beaten without respite. Whenever she recovered consciousness, two or three torturers assailed her with questions:

"Where did the grenades come from? Where is your unit stationed?"

Then blows and whips fell all over her body. Still she stood firm and did not utter a word. The enemy at last felt wearied and disappointed.

When she came to, they tried the mild method. But she plainly told them:

"Don't waste your time trying to buy me off. You have no right to question me about my unit. Don't expect me to give you any information. In Tay Ninh town, there are not just the four grenades I brought in. There's a big barrel of explosive which is waiting to blow you!"

The puppet soldiers who were surrounding Nguyet grew pale. Struck with fear and anger, they pounced on her and knocked her down. As soon as she recovered consciousness, one of the cruel agents tied up the ends of her trouser and put a snake in them. This inhuman torture dated back to Ngo Dinh Diem's regime.

She clenched her teeth, thinking that she had to endure all sufferings and fight till the end as Vo thi Sau (a South Vietnamese heroine of the anti-French resistance) did and, if she had to sacrifice herself, she would do it heroically like her. Women of Dat Do had never bowed to the enemy. Uncle Bay Sanh's recommendation "Be loyal to the Revolution whatever may happen" flashed back to her mind and gave her new strength.

...She lay unconscious in the cold, dark cell.

Then on July 20, at dawn, the Liberation fighters assaulted the enemy position from all quarters. Satchel-charges and grenades exploded in the barracks. Caught napping, the puppet troops couldn't react in time. All the base burst into flame and rang with panicky shouts.

While the enemy was trying to put up a resistance, Uncle Bay and two guerillas — Du and Linh — managed to reach the cell. Bay carried Nguyen on his shoulders and dashed out. Du and Linh laid two grenade traps at the cell-door and darted out after Bay. Immediately after they had withdrawn, four puppet soldiers hurried in. They stepped on the traps which tore them to pieces.

The guerilla squad safely brought her back to base. The enemy took 46 casualties and their barracks and watch-towers were completely erased.

That morning in a guerilla base, Nguyet attended a ceremony on the anniversary of July 20 — the signing day of the Geneva Agreements. Uncle Bay Sanh and all the attendance were deeply moved by her staunchness. From that date, the guerilla unit X. operating on the outskirts of Tay Ninh town had a welcome addition to their number Tran Thi Nguyet.

Military Operations

VERY active around US "Special Forces" camp at Bu Prang (178 km north-northwest of Saigon), the PLAF shelled enemy positions and waylaid rescue parties.

On Nov. 9 a puppet Ranger Battalion, assaulted by the PLAF on Hill 892, 4 km southeast of **Bu Prang**, took 100 casualties and beat retreat, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. In the two days that followed, 10 choppers were downed in this sector. From Nov. 13 to 15, puppet Regiment 47, assailed at 2 km southeast of Bu Prang, lost 700 men out of 1,000(2 battalions badly mauled, an artillery company wiped out), four 105 mm cannons and 4 helicopters.

In another engagement at 1.5 km from Bu Prang on Nov. 14, Battalion 1, of puppet Infantry Division 23, had about one hundred men put out of action. Many other dozens of puppet troops were mown down by US planes and helicopters which, caught in dense PLAF flaks, jettisoned their bombs and rockets on the fleeing troops.

85 km southwest of Bu Prang, near Loc Ninh (118 km north of Saigon), the PLAF made two attacks on US bases on Nov. 11, 12 and 14 hours on Nov. 11, 12 and 14, many hundreds of GIs, a company and 30 armoured cars put out of action.

IN the Western High Plateaux, many PLAF actions were also reported by *Giai Phong* Press Agency: at **Duc Lap** (208 km northeast of Saigon) on Nov. 10, they downed 4 aircraft including a four-engine C-130 of the airlift supplying a subsector CP beleaguered for many weeks; in an onset against the **Ban Me Thuot** airfield on Nov. 9, they destroyed 15 military vehicles and 9 barracks; in the skirmishes on Roads No 19 (An Khe — Pleiku) and No 14 (Kontum - Pleiku) on Nov. 14 and 15 respectively, they knocked out 150 enemy troops and 52 military vehicles, assaulting the enemy around **Plei Can**, northwest of Kontum; on Nov. 14, they wiped out a platoon and decimated 2 puppet Ranger companies. They hammered at a base of US Infantry Division 4, near **An Khe** on Nov. 16, destroying 20 choppers and 6 barracks. Western agencies said.

ON the **Da Nang** front, *Giai Phong* Press Agency also reported that between Nov. 3 and 7, about thirty bases and positions had been hit including **Nuoc Man** helicopter park, 5 km southeast of the city, the US naval base and US and buildings in Da Nang, the provincial capital of **Hoi An**, 24 km south, southeast of the town, as well as 4 subsector CPs. Initial enemy tolls were 770 casualties and 14 choppers destroyed on the ground.

On Nov. 13, at **An Hoa**, 15 km southwest of Da Nang, US marines and puppet Rangers suffered losses described by the enemy command as "heaviest in a battle lasting these last two months."

On Nov. 13, an encampment of "American" Division near **Duc Pho**, 162 km south-southeast of Da Nang, came under heavy PLAF fire.

In the area south of the 17th parallel, from Nov. 11 to 13, US Cavalry Division 5 had 200 men and 15 armoured cars and tanks wiped out and 2 choppers grounded.

Around **Saigon**, the PLAF sank on Nov. 6 and 8, 8 vessels including 2 cargo ships (one of 10,000 tons and the other 15,000 tons) near **Nha Be**.

From Nov. 3 to 9, in **An Giang** province, Mekong Delta, about 200 km west of Saigon, the PLAF raided 4 urban centres and many enemy positions, putting out of action 3 companies, inflicting 650 casualties on the enemy, *Giai Phong* Press Agency also reported.

In **Ben Tre** province (in the Mekong Delta), 80 km south of Saigon, the PLAF struck from Nov. 4 to 11, at the provincial capital, the military sector CP and 6 subsector CPs as well as 150 posts, disabling 1,000 enemy troops, writing off 2 puppet companies and decimating 4 other companies.

Artillery women in Tay Ninh

RSVN Red-Letter Days

THE RSVN PRG Council of Ministers has decided to mark every year the various historic events in the South Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression.

In a decree signed by President Huynh Tan Phat at a recent session, it decided to observe:

— June 6th, day of the opening of the Congress of the South Viet Nam People's Representatives to nominate the present Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, as Official Day of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and

— February 15th, day of the merger of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, as Official Day of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

New Staggering Blows at the Puppet Regime

THE wave of protest against the puppet rulers continues to swirl up in the enemy-occupied areas, directed at the massive taxe increases, and high cost of living. A great number of civil servants have thrown in their lot with the townsfolk. Significantly enough, it appeals also to the officers and men in the puppet army who, all and sundry, are also dissatisfied with the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. *Giai Phong* Press Agency has given the names of some dissentient units: the 824th regional Company and another at Can Tho; the First Battalion (11th Regiment, 7th Infantry Division) and the 331st regional Company at My Tho, the 3rd Battalion of the 49th Regiment at Long An.

Besides the discontent caused by unpopular economic measures, another drive has been launched by the more or less legal opposition in Saigon and enemy-controlled towns and cities. Politicians of the regime keep up a running fire of criticism at the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique. Retired general Duong Van Minh, erstwhile Head of State after the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem—the man Nguyen Van Thieu has vainly tried to win over—and Tran Ngoc Lieng, a candidate in the last "presidential elections", have openly denied the "representativeness" of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta and asked for a referendum to put another team in the saddle. A "legal" paper in Saigon wrote on Nov. 17 that the majority of townspeople were for such a consultation while another paper, quoted by *AFP* on the same day, said that realities had unmistakably shown that the quislings were heading for their doom.

Besides, Western sources reported that Thieu - Ky-Huong's Buddhist opponents were to hold at the end of November a "National Congress" to be attended by Duong Van Minh, Tran Ngoc Lieng and their friends. Another group of dissentient intellectuals — the Progressive Nationalist Forces — has, according to *AFP* of Nov. 15, called on the people to "pray for the war victims and for the option by the Vietnamese people of a road leading to peace, independence, freedom and democracy." *Reuter* reported on Nov. 15 that that group had been critical of Thieu's economic policy and accused the "allied" troops (US, puppet and satellite) of disregard for the dignity and aspirations of the Vietnamese people.

Thieu and Company persist in the use of force. Western press agencies disclosed that 42 people including high-ranking officials would be brought to trial at the end of November for having had contacts with the NFL. Among the accused were Huynh Van Trong, Thieu's personal advisor (for security). On Nov. 18, Thieu himself demanded indictment of two "MPs" for the same cause. One of them, Pham The Truc, had in July last in Tokyo, asked for total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and formation of a "neutralist government" in Saigon.

According to *AFP*, on Nov. 17, Thieu put all his armed forces and police in Saigon on the alert while an interview was taking place between him and US Ambassador Bunker.

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